

REMARKS

In the November 1, 2007 Office Action, the claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14-19, 22-24 and 26-28 stand rejected in view of prior art. On the other hand, claim 21 was indicated as allowed, and claims 3 and 12 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the November 1, 2007 Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10, and cancelled claims 3, 12, 23, 24 and 26-28 as indicated above. Claims 4, 13 and 25 were previously cancelled. Thus, claims 1, 2, 5-11 and 14-22 are now pending, with claims 1, 10 and 21 being the only independent claims. ***Applicants have merely amended/cancelled claims to accept the indicated allowable subject matter, and thus, this Amendment is not believed to raise new issues.*** In any case, reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In paragraphs 2-9 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14-19, 22-24 and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over several different prior art references applied in various combinations. In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 10 to include the indicated allowable subject matter of claims 3 and 12, respectively. Thus, independent claims 1 and 10 are now believed to be allowable. Also, Applicants have cancelled claims 3, 12, 23, 24 and 26-28 as indicated above. Thus, the rejections of claims 23, 24 and 26-28 are now moot. Dependent claims 2, 5-9, 11, 14-19 and 22 depend from independent claims 1 and 10, which now include the indicated allowable subject matter of claims 3 and 12, respectively. Thus, the rejections of dependent claims 2, 5-9, 11, 14-19 are also now believed to be moot. In other words, ***Applicants have merely amended/cancelled claims to accept the indicated allowable subject matter, and thus, the rejections of claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14-19 and 22 set forth in paragraphs 2-9 of the Office***

Action are now believed to be moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections set forth in paragraphs 2-9 of the Office Action be withdrawn based on the above amendments and comments.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 10 of the Office Action, claim 21 was indicated as allowed and claims 3 and 12 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. In response, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10 to include the limitations of claims 3 and 12, respectively, and cancelled claims 3 and 12. Thus, independent claims 1, 10 and 21 as well as their respective dependent claims 2, 5-9, 11, 14-19 and 22 are now believed to be allowable.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 2, 5-11 and 14-22 are now in condition for allowance. As mentioned above, ***Applicants have merely amended/cancelled claims to accept the indicated allowable subject matter, and thus, this Amendment is not believed to raise new issues.*** In any case, reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patrick A. Hilsmier/
Patrick A. Hilsmier
Reg. No. 46,034

GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP
1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
(202)-293-0444
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